

# LM4x

Summer 2006

*Library of Michigan's Quarterly Newsletter*

## *In Every Issue*



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# News from Nancy

State Librarian Nancy R. Robertson



I don't have to tell you it's been a busy spring in library land! Many successful library-led community events have taken place during this past quarter, several of which are highlighted in this issue of LM4X. We were busy making connections outside the library, too.

I participated in my first ALA National Library Legislative Day, with a sizable Michigan delegation of nearly 15 librarians and trustees, including representation from all but one Michigan congressional district. Joining with more than 500 other delegates representing 47 states, we made our voices heard on the importance of federal funding for libraries at home and nationally. Many thanks to Michigan's Thomson Gale for sponsorship of the Michigan delegation's Legislative Day luncheon and for funding the travel and accommodations for two of our delegates.

Soon after, an MLA Library Legislative Day in Michigan – the first in several years – was convened, with scores of participants from all over the state knocking on the doors of legislators and attending (with some giving public testimony) the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee for the Department of History, Arts and Libraries. More than just an attempt to secure funding increases, this effort was a major step in establishing and strengthening the relationships between the library community and local, state and national funding decision-makers.

Most recently, I had the pleasure of joining an enthusiastic crowd of 800+ library supporters who purchased tickets and attended the second annual Library Day at Comerica Park. It was exciting to see the Michigan Library Cooperatives collect a check for over \$7,000 from the Detroit Tigers management and Ernie Harwell in support of public library endowments. Some of last year's nine award recipients attended and we look forward to beginning the process of getting this year's seed money out to more libraries. With a huge crowd in attendance that day, it was great for Michigan's libraries to make our presence known!

I know we have more hard work ahead of us, but I do hope each of you finds little moments here and there to get out and enjoy your summer.

Cheers!

A stylized, handwritten signature of the word "Nancy" in red ink.

## LM4X Talks to Michigan Library Leadership: An Interview with Nancy Robertson and Gretchen Couraud

Last fall, leadership at both the Library of Michigan and Michigan Library Association officially changed hands, with Governor Jennifer Granholm appointing Nancy Robertson as state librarian and Gretchen Couraud being named executive director of the Michigan Library Association. As Nancy and Gretchen work closer together to advocate for Michigan's libraries, the staff at LM4X felt it was the right time to get their views on what's next for the library field.

**Over the next five years, what do you foresee as the number-one challenge to the library community?**

**NANCY:** The answer I hear to questions like this is usually "to keep libraries relevant." That answer misses the real challenge, I think. We continue to evolve in order to provide up-to-date, worthwhile, needed services – whatever those needs are. We *are* relevant. Our challenge is to effectively tell our story and market the essential services we consistently provide so that no question about our relevance remains.

Wrapped up in that challenge is the task of keeping up with technology and the technological expectations and needs of our customers. The trick to that involves the challenge of anticipating what that next technological tool or information/entertainment delivery mechanism might be.

**GRETCHEN:** Communicating the value of libraries to economic development, education and our communities, and to justify continued and increased funding are going to be critical in the next five years. Libraries must tell our stories of how we are addressing community problems to garner greater public policy support and remain viable. This doesn't mean changing our basic mission, but it does mean honing our messages and marketing our strengths to our communities and public policy makers.

**As a whole, library administrators and staff are dedicated to serving the public and are adept at identifying needed improvements and finding creative solutions to problems and challenges. On the flip side, though, what needed improvement or challenge do you think libraries and their administrators and staff ought to address? And how?**

**GRETCHEN:** It is very clear to me that library professionals are dedicated to serving their patrons' needs whether it's students, kids, business, individuals or the community-at-large ...



inside our buildings. But we have a long way to go in marketing and advocacy to get the word out and build our networks of support. If they aren't already, library professionals need to develop their individual skills in media relations and networking with business and legislative leaders. We also need to engage and teach others to advocate on behalf of libraries, be it faculty in universities, administrators, boards of trustees, friends groups or legislators.

The Michigan Library Association is already moving in this direction by building cases of support for libraries and introducing advocacy and marketing tracks at our annual conference. We look forward to developing more education and training materials in the future with our members.

**NANCY:** Knowing ourselves how wonderful and indispensable our libraries are, we are not as good as we should be about tooting our own horn. We must learn how to better highlight ourselves as essential to the communities for the benefit of whom we are constantly improving and expanding our services. An important and effective way for us to begin doing so is to engage in as much collaboration as possible with other institutions, events and services within those communities. We highlight ourselves that way, and we get exposure as our collaborative partners market themselves and their services and products. Additionally – and not incidentally – we provide richer, better service to our own customers.

**How do you think the role of libraries has evolved over the last 20 years? What kind of collaborative opportunities has this evolution made possible that simply wouldn't have been possible before?**

**GRETCHEN:** Technology has changed everything and libraries are on the cutting edge! MeL and MeLCat are two examples of excellent statewide collaboration. Our challenge is letting Michigan know that these services are available and how they can help grow a small business, teach math to a middle school student, help a college student do international research on biotechnology or help a legislator download music to an MP3 player. When we can all do this, we'll be communicating our value and building our network of supporters.

**NANCY:** We have always been and still are about customer service. Our role has not changed as much as our method of service delivery has evolved. Advances in technology have exponentially increased the reach, the speed and the content of what we provide for our users. The biggest collaborative opportunity we have taken advantage of as a

result is, in my mind, the establishment of the Michigan eLibrary. Twenty years ago, who could have envisioned the breadth and substance of content that is available to Michigan's citizens, delivered via the mere touch of a keypad, from their homes, their businesses, their schools, as well as their libraries? Technology opens up the opportunity; collaboration makes it happen.

**Is there one company or industry out there that you think libraries ought to model themselves after?**

**NANCY:** We need to model ourselves after those industries that recognize the importance of transforming their products and services in accordance with what their customers want. Libraries are sometimes too busy working to get more people to use the services we already provide, rather than developing the services our patrons want us to deliver.

The big book stores have redefined their services according to what customers want, and we are working in that same direction. But there are other examples further a field from libraries that exemplify this same notion. Ann Arbor's Zingerman's Delicatessen is one of them. In 1982, Zingerman's started out providing traditional deli services and products. Today, it provides an experience, has multiple stores, catering, coffee and customer-service training.

Clearly, rather than espousing the status quo by firmly asserting, "But we don't do that ..." libraries can learn from models of success that flourish because they have identified what their customers want and have said, "We can do that!" As libraries reflect this new attitude more and more, we'll feel less of a need to convince folks to use our services, because they'll be lining up at our in-house and online doors.

**GRETCHEN:** Today we can model ourselves after Beaner's coffee shops and Borders bookstores. People are looking for places to socialize and meet new people, find information and access wireless technology. Many libraries are already moving toward this model. But the next question is: what model should we create to lead the way in the next 20 years to remain competitive?

**What do you see as the biggest benefit of a more formal, committed partnership between MLA and the Library of Michigan?**

**GRETCHEN:** Working together to create a vision of what the best library services should be for all of Michigan's residents in the next 10 to 20 years is the greatest advantage of a partnership with Library of Michigan. The QSAC standards are a great place to start. There is a structural budget deficit in Michigan that we can't ignore. And, we can either plan for our future or react to what others propose for us. The Library of Michigan has the library knowledge and expertise and the Michigan

Library Association can bring the advocacy and marketing to the table.

**NANCY:** It is great for the Michigan library community to have Gretchen in place as the executive director of MLA. The Library of Michigan provides leadership in many ways, but MLA's ability to provide advocacy, leadership and expertise is essential to the health and well-being of Michigan's libraries and, as a result, to our communities, too.

#### **What thoughts do you have on ways to increase student enrollment in library programs?**

**GRETCHEN:** This is a long-term issue that we must begin to address through leadership development and training. The good news is that the next generation of library professionals is hip, hop and happenin'! They are tech-savvy and energized. They will be our best advocates for recruitment and somehow we need to tap their energies to recruit students into the library profession.

**NANCY:** Tuition support programs, such as the one the Library of Michigan has had success with internally for our own staff, are a start. We plan to expand that program statewide if we get the IMLS 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Librarian grant we have applied for in partnership with the Wayne State University and University of Michigan programs.

However, with other high-paying computer science and technology-related careers in the news, it's difficult to counter the perception of librarianship as not a very sexy or lucrative profession. Through mentoring programs, perhaps we can encourage more interest and enrollment over time. Certainly, bringing K-12 students or early college students in to shadow the task of shelving books will not have them chomping at the bit to enter LIS programs, but what an opportunity we have to grab their attention by involving prospective students with MeL, online training and 21<sup>st</sup>-century product development and information delivery models!

#### **In your positions of leadership, what do each of you see as your biggest responsibility to the library community and to the residents who use Michigan's libraries?**

**GRETCHEN:** I spend a lot of time listening to library professionals from all types of libraries as well as to legislators and constituents about their greatest challenges and needs. There are a surprising number of cross-overs. My goal is to make sure MLA is meeting the needs of library professionals and institutions and that as a profession we're building bridges to meet the needs of our customers, Michigan's residents. That ultimately means creating and promoting positive change.

**NANCY:** Each library, of whatever type, must focus on meeting the identified needs of its own service population. The Library of Michigan and the state librarian's task is to continually assess the larger, statewide and national – even international – picture. Our goal is to facilitate and ensure a level playing field for all of Michigan's citizens when it comes to library service. We are achieving that with the Michigan eLibrary.

We also provide an eye to consistency across local and regional boundaries with the QSAC benchmarks for public libraries and for cooperatives. And we seek out and administer grant programs offered by funding sources such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services that provide funding to increase opportunities for libraries across the board. Individual libraries manage some of these tasks on their own or in partnership with one another, but we hope to cover the lion's share of that responsibility as the library resource for Michigan's libraries.



*Left to right: Helen Wilbur, Thomson Gale; Senator Debbie Stabenow; Sue Hill, director, Capital Area District Library; Quenda Story, trustee, Capital Area District Library; Gretchen Couraud, executive director, Michigan Library Association*



*Front row, left to right: Roger Ashley, executive director, Michigan Association for Media in Education; Shirley Bruusema, trustee, Kent District Library; Roger Mendel, director, Midwestern Michigan Library Cooperative. Back row, left to right: Christine Berro, director, Portage District Library; Patricia Peading, Senator Debbie Stabenow's office; Pam Christensen, director, Peter White Public Library; Gretchen Couraud, executive director, Michigan Library Association; Nancy Skowronski, director, Detroit Public Library; Nancy Robertson, state librarian, Library of Michigan; Sue Hill, director, Capital Area District Library; Tammy Turgeon, director, Suburban Library Cooperative; Beth Bogdanski, ProQuest; Quenda Story, trustee, Capital Area District Library*

## **Delegation Advocates for Michigan Libraries in Washington, D.C.**

State Librarian Nancy Robertson and Gretchen Couraud, executive director of the Michigan Library Association, headed up Michigan's delegation at the 32nd National Library Legislative Day in Washington, D.C. in May. They were among the hundreds of library supporters from across the country who talked to lawmakers about the needs and accomplishments of libraries and helped to let them know what a key role libraries play in their communities.

## LSTA Competitive Grant Program Returns

The Library of Michigan is pleased to announce that the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) competitive grant program is returning for the LSTA fiscal year 2007. We will provide more information in September as the 2007 program gets started. Opportunities will be available for the following areas:

- Collaboration and Partnership
- Engaging Youth

The LSTA team will have application packets available in September and will hold grant-writing workshops in the fall of 2006. Applications for the FY 2007 grant program will be due on Jan. 31, 2007.

If you have questions regarding the 2007 grant program before this fall, please contact Karren Reish at [kreish@michigan.gov](mailto:kreish@michigan.gov) or (517) 241-0021. We look forward to working with you this fall!

## Celebrating the 2006 Michigan Notable Book Authors

On Saturday evening, May 6, the Library of Michigan Foundation hosted the third annual 'Night for Notables' in honor of the 2006 Michigan Notable Book authors at the Library of Michigan.

The daylong celebration began with the Library of Michigan's afternoon event, Michigan Notable Author Day. This free program gave book lovers a chance to attend discussion and book signings with more than a dozen Notable Books authors.

In the evening, 'Night for Notables' featured the opportunity to meet the authors, a tribute led by State Librarian Nancy Robertson and a thought-provoking talk by critically acclaimed author Kevin Boyle, whose 2004 work "Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age" won the National Book Award for non-fiction.

The Michigan Notable Books program is designed to promote reading and raise awareness of Michigan's strong literary heritage. Throughout the months of May and June, several Michigan Notable Books authors will take their stories on the road, visiting libraries and other locations throughout the state – more than 50 stops in total – to talk with the public about their books and the writing process. A full schedule of author visits can be found on the Michigan Notable Books Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/notablebooks>

Michigan Notable Books events are sponsored in part by the Michigan Humanities Council, Cooley Law School, ProQuest, LaSalle Bank, the Library of Michigan, the Library of Michigan Foundation, Michigan Center for the Book, Michigan Week, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Schuler Books & Music and media partner The Lansing State Journal.



*Sue Stauffacher,  
author of  
"Harry Sue"*



*Kevin Boyle, National  
Book Award winner for  
"Arc of Justice: A Saga  
of Race, Civil Rights,  
and Murder in the Jazz  
Age" and keynote speaker  
at the 2006 Night for  
Notables*



*Dean Bakopoulos (left), author of "Please Don't Come Back  
From the Moon" and Steve Amick, author of "The Lake, the  
River & the Other Lake: A Novel"*



## April Seminar a Success

On April 1, the Library of Michigan hosted a free genealogy seminar dedicated to online research. We were thrilled with the large turnout; more than 200 people attended, including a number of new faces.

Program topics were HeritageQuest, Ancestry Library Edition, Online Research at the Archives of Michigan, Vital Records Research on the Internet, New England Historic Genealogical Society Databases, Michigan Genealogy Research on the Internet, and New York Passenger Arrivals.

Given the success of the seminar, we will look at offering a similar event in the future. We hope everyone was able to learn something and apply it to his/her own family history research. Thank you to everyone who attended!



*Participants enjoy a free genealogy seminar at the Library of Michigan in April.*

## Explore Your Roots, Discover Your History: 2006 Abrams Genealogy Seminar July 21-22

The 2006 Abrams Genealogy Seminar, “Explore Your Roots, Discover Your History,” will take place at the Michigan Library and Historical Center on Friday and Saturday, July 21 and 22.

This event offers a unique opportunity for researchers to spend two days at the library and learn about specific topics of interest, including vital records, Irish research, female ancestors, ships’ passenger lists, and beginning your genealogy research. A highlight of the seminar will be a special keynote address by Curt Witcher, manager of the Historical Genealogy Department at the Allen County Public Library.

One exciting feature of this event is a library and archives research track, in which facilities with extensive genealogical and historical holdings will outline their collections. Participating libraries and archives include: the Library of Michigan, the Archives of Michigan, Allen County Public Library, the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library, and the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections Center at the Grand Rapids Public Library. This seminar track will offer researchers insight into the wealth of genealogical resources available in libraries and archives across our region.

In addition to programs that focus on resources available at the Library of Michigan, the Abrams seminar will also offer a “Your Best Find” program, where attendees will be encouraged to share their “Eureka!” moments of success. Tours of the Library of Michigan and the Archives of Michigan will also be available.

Registration for this two-day event is an affordable \$35, which includes lunch on Saturday and a conference syllabus. The seminar schedule will be available soon; stay tuned for more details. For additional information about the Abrams Genealogy Seminar, please contact the Library of Michigan at (517) 373-1300, by e-mail at [librarian@michigan.gov](mailto:librarian@michigan.gov) or visit our Web site at <http://www.michigan.gov/familyhistory>. We hope to see everyone here for a fantastic seminar in July!

## Ernie and Tram Go to Bat for Michigan Public Libraries, Raising \$7,400

The second annual Michigan Public Libraries Day at Comerica Park on Sunday, May 21, was a hit. As part of the Ernie and Tram Go to Bat for Michigan Public Libraries program, 821 public library supporters purchased tickets to attend the game and see the Detroit Tigers play the Cincinnati Reds. This fund-raiser generated about \$7,400 – nine dollars from every \$20 ticket sold – which will be used to create endowments at public libraries in Michigan.

Hall of Fame broadcaster Ernie Harwell and former Detroit Tigers manager Alan Trammell are well aware that libraries have, for a number of years, faced critical funding shortages and this program is designed to help libraries build strong financial bases. Mr. Harwell encouraged all the fans in attendance at Sunday's game to lend their support to Michigan's public libraries.

More than 250 fans visited the Detroit Public Library before the game to meet Mr. Harwell and see the library's Lulu and Ernie Harwell Collection, including three large buses from Jackson, Macomb and Kalamazoo and many walk-ins. Thomson Gale sponsored buses to take fans from the Detroit Public Library over to Comerica Park and back.

Trixie Wint, a librarian at Homer Public Library of Michigan, won an eight-day cruise as part of a Tigers give-away for fans.

"I am just amazed that I won – what an awesome thing to have happen on a day that we were out supporting libraries and enjoying a wonderful Tiger baseball game. I still can't believe it and I probably won't until I am on my way to get on the ship," said Trixie. "Thank you to everyone that came out, to E Prize, to the great Tiger baseball staff who were so helpful, and thank you to Ernie Harwell and Alan Trammell for their support of our libraries."

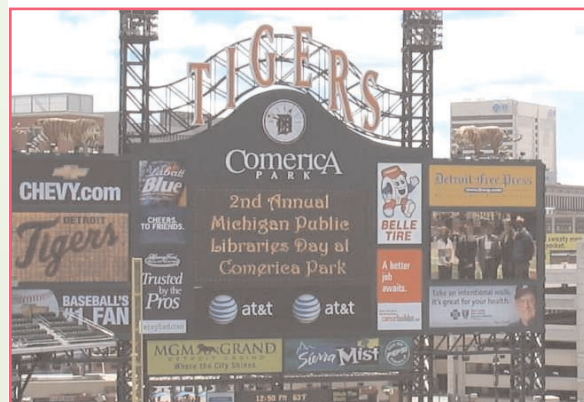
The Library of Michigan would like to thank campaign co-chairs Jennifer Dean, director of the Northland Library Cooperative Director, and James Seidl, director of the Woodlands Library Cooperative, for coordinating this year's effort and to the libraries and library cooperatives that helped sell tickets.



*Ernie Harwell and State Librarian Nancy Robertson.*



*Trixie Wint (center) – along with Vickie and Valerie Van Wert, daughters of Homer Public Library Director Sandra VanWert – is all smiles after winning a cruise at the Tigers game.*



*Comerica Park welcomes Michigan library supporters.*



## Hog-a-rama! Michigan Reads 2006

On Saturday, March 11, families gathered at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library to kick off Michigan Reads! 2006. The kickoff event featured storytime with author Kelly DiPucchio, pig crafts, and a photo opportunity with Prudence the Pig. DiPucchio read her book *Bed Hogs*, the 2006 Michigan Reads! featured title, to an eager group of children who joined in the telling of the story with an enthusiastic “ahhhh, much better” on each cue from Kelly.

Fondly nicknamed the Hog-a-rama, the March 11 event launched a month of Michigan Reads! activities in public libraries, preschools, homes, and Head Start programs across the state. To support those activities, the Library of Michigan, in cooperation with the Michigan Reads! sponsors and Governor Granholm, provided every Michigan public library and Head Start program with a copy of *Bed Hogs* and related materials to use in their Michigan Reads! programming.

The 2006 program owes much of its success to the following generous sponsors: Brogan & Partners, Michigan Education Savings Program (MESP), Michigan Education Trust (MET) and the Library of Michigan Foundation.

Michigan Reads! is a statewide program highlighting the importance of reading to children by focusing on a picture book for children ages 0 to 5. All of Michigan is invited to celebrate early childhood literacy by reading to preschoolers and participating in literacy events and activities around the state.

Planning for Michigan Reads! 2007 is now underway. Stay tuned for more details about how your library can get involved.



*Kids meet “Bed Hogs” author Kelly DiPucchio at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library.*

## Archive Offers Tools for “One Book” Programs

Need a reading guide for a “one book” program or ideas for creating your own program? The Michigan Center for the Book’s *One Book Archive* at <http://michigan.gov/mcgb> is a new resource aimed at helping librarians, teachers and literary groups to find the information they need on arranging community-wide reading events and to share program and promotional materials.

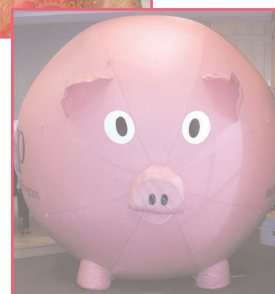
Michigan’s libraries do a great job of getting their communities excited about reading and talking through one-book programs. The Michigan Center for the Book wants to help libraries share their materials and expand those efforts. The site includes links to informational sites and materials for specific books. We have a resource guide for *My Sister’s Keeper* by Jodi Picoult and a reader’s guide for Ernest Gaine’s *A Lesson Before Dying*. Stop by and see what else we have! If you would like to share your materials, please contact Karren Reish.

The Michigan Center for the Book is a program of the Library of Michigan and its affiliates. Our goal is to promote an awareness of books, reading, literacy, authors and Michigan’s rich literary heritage. For more information about the center and its programs or for information about becoming an affiliate, go to <http://michigan.gov/mcgb> or contact:

Karren Reish  
Coordinator, Michigan Center for the Book  
(517) 373-3891 or [kreish@michigan.gov](mailto:kreish@michigan.gov)



*State Librarian Nancy Robertson (left) and Kelly DiPucchio*



*Prudence the Pig*



# *MeL - The Library Made with Me in Mind*

## Michigan eLibrary Update

In every issue of LM4X, the Library of Michigan provides updates on MeLCat usage and highlights timely or especially noteworthy resources within MeL Databases and MeL Internet.

MeLCat is the statewide resource-sharing system, allowing customers from participating libraries to search for, identify and request delivery of materials within the libraries' collective holdings to customers' local libraries. This should be a particularly attractive opportunity for school libraries seeking to bring even more resources to their students in the coming school year. MeLCat gives students greater access to information resources that 10 years ago just wouldn't have been an option.

MeL Databases is a collection of electronic databases – information you simply will not find on the open Web – to which the Library of Michigan has purchased exclusive rights for Michigan residents. Finally, MeL Internet is a subject collection of public Web sites, chosen for authenticity and categorized by professional librarians for ease of use.

If, while exploring MeL, you come across a Web site or database that you think should be highlighted in this newsletter, please send a note to [LM4X@michigan.gov](mailto:LM4X@michigan.gov).

### MeLCat – as of May 15, 2006

Number of participating libraries:  
Borrowing and lending – 93  
Academic – 19; public – 66; K-12 – 6; special – 2  
Summer additions in testing – 12  
TOTAL number of libraries – 105  
Bibliographic records in MeLCat – 6.33 million

MeLCat fulfillment:

Requests year to date – 68,161

Fulfillments year to date – 59,798

Overall fill rate – 87.7 percent

Requests per week (average) – 3,408

Fall 2006 libraries (online by mid-September)

Adding 29 libraries will bring the total to 134

### MeL Databases – Spotlight on ... LearnATest

As schools across the state break for summer vacation, it's always a good idea to brush up on skills from time to time. The Michigan eLibrary is home to a unique learning opportunity for students of all ages: LearnATest. Offered by LearningExpress, LearnATest provides a completely interactive online learning platform of practice tests and tutorial course series designed to help patrons, students and adult learners succeed on academic and licensing tests. More than just the opportunity to utilize practice tests, users get immediate scoring, complete answer explanations and individualized results analysis.

With last year's decision to replace the MEAP test with the ACT for high school juniors, the LearnATest database becomes all the more attractive. Here's a chance for Michigan residents to gain – free of charge – valuable practice time on a college placement exam. In addition, students and parents will find practice tests on a broad array of subjects including AP biology, AP calculus, AP English literature and composition, history, algebra, grammar, vocabulary, middle school math, reading comprehension and more.

Visit <http://mel.org> to use this and other quality MeL resources.

The Michigan eLibrary is made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through LSTA funding.

## Study to Help Determine How MeL Can Be Improved

The Library of Michigan has commissioned a usability study of the Michigan eLibrary (MeL). The study will look at how visitors to MeL are using the site to find information, what's working, and what can be done to improve user satisfaction.

Two methods of information gathering will be employed over a period of six months. First is a survey, set to be launched in September, that will be posted on MeL for both librarians and the public. The second method is formal task-completion testing, where librarians and members of the public will be monitored as they use MeL's services, allowing us to observe first-hand how the site is being used, pinpoint problem areas, and identify where the site excels in providing useful data.

The East Lansing Public Library is generously contributing their facilities as well as staff time to this project. Their enthusiasm and support for this project is vital to its success, and the Library of Michigan would like to thank East Lansing Public Library Director Sylvia Marabate as well as her staff.

Michigan Library Consortium staff expertise is also contributing to the development and success of the study.

Look for the survey on MeL in September!



## Get Smart

### 2007 Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference

The Library of Michigan is pleased to announce the dates and location for Rural Libraries 2007. The conference, *Rural Libraries 2.0*, will be held May 7-9 at the Grand Traverse Resort in Traverse City. Conference planning is now underway and will provide many opportunities for the Michigan library community to get involved. For all the latest conference news and notes, visit

<http://www.rlc2007.blogspot.com>.

The Rural Libraries Conference is made possible in part by LSTA funding from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

### Donation Funds Wayne State University Library and Information Science Training Program

Friend of the Wayne State University Library and Information Science Program, Cynthia Faulhaber, has donated \$25,000 to begin a program called LEAD, Library Education for Administrators and Directors. This gift was matched by a donation of \$15,000 from the H.W. Wilson Foundation to commence the series.

The LEAD program will be an education series targeted at directors, administrators and library board members in Class I, II and III libraries in Michigan. The program will provide training in the fundamentals of librarianship and management for individuals currently working in Michigan's smaller libraries or who would not normally pursue the master's degree in library and information science.

Instructional unit modules will be delivered to participants over the Web, with some sessions held at local cooperatives or state conferences. The LIS Program at Wayne State will serve as the lead institution and work closely with the Library of Michigan to provide the instruction needed for participants to obtain library administration certification.



# Legal-Ease

## Residents and Library Fees

Once in awhile it is necessary to go back to the basics, to ask ourselves why we are here with respect to our professions. In this vein, it might be useful to discuss how Michigan law governs the fees residents pay for library services.

The imposition of fees for library services has been addressed numerous times in Michigan laws, with a great deal of legal authority against this practice.

Michigan jurisprudence on the establishment and funding of free public libraries predates statehood. Since the beginning of the state, Michigan laws have not only called for the creation of public libraries but have also authorized state subsidization of free public library services for all Michigan residents. Article X, Section 4 of the Michigan Constitution of 1835 provides:

“As soon as the circumstances of the state will permit, the Legislature shall provide for the establishment of libraries, one at least in each township...the clear proceeds of all fines assessed in the several counties for any breach of the penal laws, shall be exclusively applied for the support of said libraries.”

The above language was carried forward in Michigan’s next constitution, the constitution of 1850, in Article XIII, Section 12.

The intent of the Legislature that there shall be *free* library service for all people is evidenced by language found in the City, Village and Township Libraries Act, 1877 PA 164, MCL 397.201 *et seq.* The title of this law indicates that it is an act to:

“... [A]uthorize cities, incorporated villages, and townships to establish and maintain, or contract for the use of, free public libraries and reading rooms. ...”

Moreover, section 6 of 1877 PA 164, MCL 397.206, states:

“Every library and reading room established under this act shall be forever free to the use of the inhabitants where located. ...”

Additionally, section 13 of 1877 PA 164, MCL 397.213, provides:

“Notwithstanding a contrary city, village, or township charter provision, a township, village, or city adjacent to a township, village, or city that supports a free public circulating library and reading room under this act may contract for the use of library services with that adjacent township, village, or city.”

In other words, even if a library is established via city charter, it still must maintain its status as a free, public, circulating library. It is also noteworthy that the language specifically mentions that municipalities that have contracted for library service are entitled to the same services as people that reside within a library’s jurisdictional service area.

These sections are still valid law today. Over the years the language concerning the establishment and funding of library services for Michigan residents has changed somewhat; however, the original intent has endured.

The contemporary constitutional underpinnings for library services is found in Article VIII, Section 9 of the 1963 constitution, which states:

“The Legislature shall provide by law for the establishment and support of public libraries which shall be available to all residents of the state under regulations adopted by the governing bodies thereof.”

As with every Michigan constitution and statute since 1835, current law provides mechanisms not only for the creation of public libraries, but also for the state subsidization of free public library services.

The Legislature enacted specific laws to give effect to the “support” language currently found in Article VIII, Section 9 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963. These laws

include the Distribution of Penal Fines to Public Libraries Act (Penal Fines Act, 1964 PA 59, MCL 397.31 *et seq.*) and the State Aid to Public Libraries Act (State Aid Act, 1977 PA 89, MCL 397.551 *et seq.*). As with the other laws mentioned above, these public acts exhibit legislative intent for free library services.

Section 1 of the Penal Fines Act indicates:

“‘Public library’ means a library, the whole interests of which belong to the general public, lawfully established for free public purposes. ... “

Section 6 of the Penal Fines Act, MCL 397.36, provides:

“The penal fine moneys when received by the proper authorities shall be applied exclusively to the support of public libraries and to no other purpose. ... “

Preference for “free” public libraries is also evidenced by section 2 of the State Aid Act, which states:

“‘Public library’ means a library that is lawfully established for free public purposes by 1 or more counties, cities, townships, villages, school districts, or other local governments or a combination thereof, or by a public or local act, the entire interests of which belong to the general public.”

A legal distinction between residents and non-residents and the imposition of fees can be found in section 11a of the State Aid Act, which indicates:

“A library may charge nonresident borrowing fees to a person residing outside of the library’s service area ... “

The relationship between library services and fees was taken up by the Legislature in 2005, in the course of considering SB 512, which was ultimately enacted into law as Public Act 60 of 2005. During legislative deliberations on the bill, a decision was made to omit a provision, the so-called section 12(g), which would have limited access to library services based on monetary considerations. Here again, the Legislature made a conscious public-policy decision that library services shall be free to local residents and to the residents of

other localities that contract with local public libraries. Based on these laws and the history of public libraries in Michigan, it is fair to conclude that people residing within a public library’s jurisdictional service area (residents) and those residing in a contractual service area (persons served by library service contract) are entitled to free library services.

The issue of residents and fees is wholly dependent on the question of what constitutes library service. This question is one to be answered by the governing boards of libraries, in accordance with the law, in response to the public and with the assistance of legal counsel.

If you have any questions, ask your library’s legal counsel. Additionally, please feel free to contact Lance M. Werner, the library law specialist at the Library of Michigan – by phone at (517) 373-1299 or by e-mail at [wernerl@michigan.gov](mailto:wernerl@michigan.gov) – for further information.





# *Happening at HAL*

## Travel Through Time at HAL Sites This Summer

Where else but Michigan could you spend your summer vacation chatting with Redcoats while you watch cannons and muskets firing, exploring Great Lakes shipwrecks, or learning what life was like as a iron or copper miner or a lumberjack? The Department of History, Arts and Libraries (HAL) offers opportunities to experience these and many other fascinating aspects of Michigan's heritage at sites around the state this summer. Here are a few highlights:

## Michigan Iron Industry Museum Packs Music, Theater, History and More into Full Summer Calendar

The Michigan Iron Industry Museum's summer 2006 events calendar features a full season of historical fun, including music, theater, costumed performers, classic antique automobiles, 19th-century children's games, Civil War artillery demonstrations, and a living-history tribute marking the role that Michigan's iron industry played during World War II.

Located in the forested ravines of Negaunee Township eight miles west of Marquette, the Michigan Iron Industry Museum tells the story of Michigan's three iron ranges, their communities and the hard-working immigrants who helped build modern America. The museum overlooks the Carp River and the site of the region's first iron forge, which operated from 1846 to 1855. Exhibits and outdoor paths interpret the large-scale capital and human investment that made Michigan an industrial leader. An 18-minute slide program, shown seven times daily, presents the colorful story of immigrant and community life in the Upper Peninsula.

The Michigan Iron Industry Museum in Negaunee Township marked the completion of a new 4,000-square-foot addition in early May. New this year is an exhibit tracing recent archaeological investigation of the Carp River Forge. "Secrets of a Buried Past: Clues from the Carp River Forge" will display for the first time forge artifacts dating back to the beginning of Michigan's iron industry. Visitors in 2006 will also enjoy a new museum store offering an expanded selection of books, games, jewelry, apparel and other Michigan-related specialty items.

The museum is open daily from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. May 1 through Oct. 31. Admission is free. For more information, including a full schedule of events, call (906) 475-7857 or visit <http://www.michiganhistory.org>

The Michigan Iron Industry Museum is one of 11 nationally accredited museums administered by the Michigan Historical Center. Other sites include the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing, the Civilian Conservation Corps Museum in Roscommon, the Father Marquette National Memorial in St. Ignace, Fayette Historic Townsite in Garden, Fort Wilkins and the Copper Harbor Lighthouse in Copper Harbor, the Hartwick Pines Logging Museum in Grayling, Mann House in Concord, Sanilac Petroglyphs in Bad Axe, Tawas Point Lighthouse in East Tawas and Walker Tavern in Brooklyn.

## New Exhibit at Fort Mackinac Looks at 19th-Century Medicine

New for 2006, visitors to Fort Mackinac on Mackinac Island can explore the state of 19<sup>th</sup>-century medicine, including actual cases gleaned from fort records, with the new exhibit “Military Medicine at Mackinac.” The Fort Mackinac Post Hospital – Michigan’s oldest standing hospital building – will be filled with fun new interactive displays. Take a look through a giant microscope, watch the post surgeon on rounds in 1837 and examine how the various joints of the body work.

Back for the second year are evening hours and dinner service at Fort Mackinac from June 10 to Aug. 20. During this time, ticket booths will remain open until 10 p.m., with tickets sold until 8 p.m. The Fort Mackinac Tea Room, featuring one of the best views in Michigan, will offer dinner, with food and service by the Grand Hotel.

Fort Mackinac is part of Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac region. Other sites include Historic Downtown and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island and Colonial Michilimackinac, Historic Mill Creek and Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse in Mackinaw City. Visitor information is available on the Web at <http://www.mackinacparks.com> and by phone at (231) 436-4100.

## Dive Into Michigan’s Maritime Heritage at Thunder Bay’s New Visitor Center

The 20,000-square-foot Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena opened in September 2005. The center offers visitors the opportunity to:

- take a closer look at some of estimated 200 shipwrecks in and around Thunder Bay through live, real-time video feeds;
- see innovative, state-of-the-art shipwreck and Great Lakes exhibits;
- watch the documentary “Tragedies in the Mist;”
- learn about how underwater archaeologists work to preserve historic shipwrecks; and
- browse in the gift shop.

The Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, part of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, is located at 500 W. Fletcher St. in Alpena. It is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information, visit <http://www.thunderbay.noaa.gov> or call (989) 356-8805.

Established in 2000, the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve maintains stewardship over one of the nation’s most historically significant collection of shipwrecks. Preserved by the cold, fresh water of Lake Huron, these submerged cultural resources are time capsules linking us to our collective maritime past. The sanctuary seeks to ensure that divers and non-divers of all ages share in the discovery, exploration and preservation of Thunder Bay’s historic shipwrecks.

For more information about the full slate of summer fun brought to you by visit <http://www.michigan.gov/hal>

